

SENATE BILL 2025

By Berke

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to the creation of a task force on higher
education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created a task force to be known as the "Forward Thinking for Higher Education Task Force". The task force shall be composed of eleven (11) members, including one (1) member representing the Tennessee board of regents appointed by the board of regents and one (1) member representing the University of Tennessee system appointed by the University of Tennessee board of trustees, and nine (9) members to be appointed as follows:

(1) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the governor;

(2) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate;

and

(3) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

The governor, the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall cooperate in making their respective appointments so that each congressional district is represented by one (1) of the members that they appoint. All members shall be appointed by June 1, 2009.

(b) The task force shall examine:

(1) The structure of higher education in Tennessee;

(2) The future of higher education in Tennessee;

(3) The overall mission of higher education and the best means by which to provide higher education within that mission to Tennessee citizens;

(4) The higher education needs of nontraditional students and the services needed to provide training for nontraditional students; and

(5) Higher education funding options.

(c) The Tennessee higher education commission shall provide administrative assistance to the task force. The executive director of the Tennessee higher education commission shall convene the first meeting of the task force, at which time the task force shall elect a chair and such other officers as the task force deems necessary.

(d) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred while performing business of the task force. Such reimbursement shall be paid in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(e) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly by February 1, 2010, at which time the task force shall cease to exist.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.